EC opposes move to lower age limit of candidates

4570. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item entitled "EC opposes move to lower age limit of candidates" which appeared in Indian Express dated 29th June, 1998; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has not yet taken any decision on lowering the age of candidtates contesting elections to Parliament or State Legislatures.

Delimitation of constituencies

4571. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing principle of delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies on demographic basis is politically rewarding States that have not implemented the population control effectively; and

(b) if so, whether the number of constituencies in State/Union Territories will be frozen?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) As per existing constitutional provisions, fresh delimitation and allotment of seats to various States in Lok Sabha would remain unalterable till the figures of first census taken after the year 2000 are published. These provisions were made to ensure that the representation in Lok Sabha of the States who have effectively implemented the family planning programme, is not adversely affected. No decision has however, been taken to permanently freeze the existing representation of various States in the Lok Sabha.

Incentive Package for Inland Water Transport

4572. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for incentive package for inland water transport;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to develop inland water transport in a planned manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

A proposal for enunciation of IWT policy and guidelines for encouraging investment in IWT infrastructure and other components is under process of the Govenrment.

(c) Necessary steps are being taken to develop the three National Waterways by providing navigable channels including marking and night navigational aids and constructing river terminals at several places to facilitate navigation in these waterways. Certain incentives are also proposed to be offered for encouraging investments in IWT infrastructure and other components. The Govt. have also issued instructions for cargo reservation in the case of bulk commodities handled by PSUs. The State Governments are also encouraged to develop Inland Water Transport through Centrally Sponsored Schemes.